

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 11, and 14 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3 and 11 were objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-16 were allowed; and Claims 3 and 11 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the above objection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to this indication, dependent Claims 3 and 11 are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Further, independent Claim 14 is amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
EHK/SS/RFF/cja

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record